



MITT ROMNEY
GOVERNOR

KERRY HEALEY
LT. GOVERNOR

EDWARD A. FLYNN
SECRETARY

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety
Department of Fire Services
P.O. Box 1025 ~ State Road

Stow, Massachusetts 01775

(978) 567~3100 Fax: (978) 567~3121



STEPHEN D. COAN
STATE FIRE MARSHAL

THOMAS P. LEONARD
DEPUTY STATE FIRE MARSHAL

For Immediate Release: August 17, 2005
Contact: Jennifer Mieth, (978) 567-3381

Serial Arsonist Arrested in Sunderland

State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan, Northwestern District Attorney Elizabeth D. Scheibel, Sunderland Fire Chief Robert T. Ahearn and Sunderland Police Chief Jeffrey Gilbert are pleased to announce that Stephen Kmiecik, age 23, of 87 Silver Lane in Sunderland, was arrested last night and charged with a number of criminal offenses including seven for arson.

Mr. Kmiecik is charged with setting fire to a dumpster at 253 Amherst Road on August 25, 2005, a home and a tool shed at 50 Silver Lane on August 26, 2004, a couch near the dumpster at 253 Amherst Road on September 25, 2004, an outbuilding on Amherst Road on September 25, 2004 a home at 38 Silver Lane on September 27, 2004, and a home at 60 Silver Lane on December 25, 2004. There are a total of fourteen criminal charges being pursued by the Northwestern District Attorney's Office.

The fires were jointly investigated by State Police assigned to the Office of the State Fire Marshal, the Sunderland Fire Department and the Sunderland Police Department who also investigate the other criminal charges against Mr. Kmeicik.

State Fire Marshal Coan said, "I want to commend the investigation team for their persistence in pursuing this case. This is an example where the teamwork between local fire and law enforcement and the State Police fire investigators has paid big dividends."

Chief Gilbert said, "Officers spoke to Mr. Kmeicik last night as part of an investigation into recent incidents of car and home windows being shot out by a pellet gun." He added, "Our officers did not lose sight of other crimes that occurred in the same neighborhood and developed enough evidence to charge him with the series of arsons that occurred this time last year."

Chief Ahearn said, "I am relieved that someone has been charged in this series of arsons so that people in the neighborhood can rest easy." He added, "Arson is not a victimless crime and residents lives have been a living hell with the anxiety of having a serial arsonist running loose."